

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 29, 2003. Claims 8 and 9 are pending in this application. Claim 8 has been amended to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claim 8 is in independent form.

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from admitted prior art in view of U.S. Patent 3,845,295 (Williams et al.).

The background and purpose of the present invention have been discussed adequately in Applicants' previous papers, and it is not believed to be necessary to repeat that discussion in full. Applicants have amended independent Claim 8 to recite still more clearly a solid-state image pickup element that has externally-connectable first and second terminals (e.g., 111 and 112 in the embodiment shown Fig. 9, although it is of course to be understood that the claim scope is not limited by the details of the disclosed embodiments) and first and second wirings corresponding thereto such that voltages at the first and second terminals are applied respectively to the recited reset switch and the transfer switch (e.g., 107 and 102 in the embodiment of Fig. 9, respectively), which are both included in a pixel, to control each switch in accordance with the voltage supplied by each wiring and a voltage supplied internally (for example, from a vertical shift register in one of the preferred embodiments, although Claim 8 is not limited to this arrangement). This feature of the present invention is not taught or suggested by the prior art disclosed in the present application, nor by *Williams*, whether taken alone or in any possible combination with that admitted prior art.

The Office Action refers to terminals V_R and V_T connected to a reset gate 22 and a transfer gate 16 respectively (shown in Fig. 6). Those gates are controlled in accordance only with the voltages that appear at the terminals V_R and V_T . Applicants submit that nothing in *Williams* would teach, or even suggest, externally-connectable terminals and wiring connected thereto, arranged such that the reset gate and transfer gate are each controlled in accordance with both a voltage at an externally-connectable terminal and a voltage at terminal V_T or V_R . For at least that reason, Claim 8 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Williams*, taken alone or in any possible combination (if any) with the prior art described in the present application.

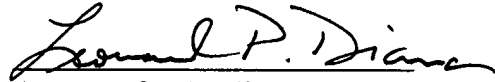
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against independent Claim 8, and that claim is therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claim in this application is dependent from independent Claim 8, and is therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since dependent Claim 9 is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of the latter claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Leonard P. Diana".

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